



# Congressman Tim Bishop

*FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK*

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **BISHOP APPLAUDS DECISION TO APPROVE ISLANDER EAST PIPELINE**

**Washington, DC**— Congressman Tim Bishop today applauded a decision by Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans to override objections from the State of Connecticut and allow operation of the Islander East pipeline. The Islander East pipeline is a 49.9-mile, 24-inch natural gas pipeline stretching from Connecticut to Long Island. It is expected to provide enough natural gas for electricity in approximately 600,000 homes.

Bishop had urged the federal government to step in over the objections of Connecticut. Bishop cited the exhaustive environmental studies as well as Long Island's urgent need for natural gas.

"This ruling is a real victory for Long Island," Bishop said. "Islander East will help meet energy needs in an environmentally friendly way. After last year's blackout, we now understand more than ever the need to diversify our energy supply."

The plan has been halted by objections from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection due to environmental fears to shellfish habitat. However, several environmental analyses of the pipeline have shown that it would cause no adverse environmental impact. In addition, the plan has won the endorsement of leading environmentalists, such as Richard Amper, Executive Director of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society.

The pipeline would begin at an existing meter station in North Haven, Connecticut, cross under the Long Island Sound, come onto Long Island in Wading River and run south. The pipeline will be a second route to serve eastern Long Island. The first route is owned by the Iroquois Pipeline Company.

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